Open Educational Resources Project

Project Background
Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning resources that can be freely used, adapted, and shared.

OER enable continuous adaptation and updating of learning resources. By sharing and adapting educational materials, content acquisition costs can be cut dramatically, allowing schools to make better use of available resources.

Washington is proud to be the first state to pass legislation funding full-time staff to oversee the development of a library of reviewed resources and work with districts to explore OER as an important part of their instructional materials strategy.

OER Project Efforts

Model Instructional Materials Policy
OSPI collaborated with the Washington State School Directors’ Association to craft a new model instructional materials selection policy that includes consideration of OER and digital materials.

2020 Course Design, Selection, and Adoption of Instructional Materials

OER Awareness
OER Summits and presentations reach district stakeholders and promote cross-district discussion around the benefits and challenges of implementing OER and strategies for effective OER implementation. Washington appears as a selected state OER initiative in CCSSO’s OER Stories, Policies, and Resources and in the State Educational Technology Directors’ Association’s OER in Action: Implementation Case Studies.

OER Key Considerations for Districts
Helpful Resources for Using OER

OER Review
The Reviewed OER Library is a catalog of openly-licensed material that has been reviewed for alignment with state learning standards. Expert teachers from across the state reviewed OER using the same rubrics that would be used for traditionally published material. This library includes reviews and links to 24 full course mathematics curricula and 60 ELA units.

Reviewed OER Library
OER Grants
Since 2013, 19 OER grants have been distributed, directly impacting 2,641 teachers and 69,176 students. These small, competitive grants are provided to districts developing their own OER core instructional materials or creating OER users’ groups to share ideas, define best practices, and champion effective distribution and implementation of resources.

OER Grants
Washington State Engage NY Math Users’ Group
Southwest Washington STEM Materials Collaborative
Visit other grantees and groups developing OER on the Washington OER Commons Hub

#GoOpen Washington
Washington is pleased to join the #GoOpen initiative, adding its voice to a cohort of states recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for their commitment to support school districts and educators transitioning to the use of quality, openly-licensed educational resources in their schools.

Due to Washington’s experience the OER Project has played a large role in providing guidance to the initiative. Two Washington districts (Bethel School District and Puyallup School District) serve as ambassador schools in the #GoOpen campaign.

#GoOpen initiative

OER Commons Washington Hub
The OER Commons Washington Hub is the place where districts curating and creating OER can share their resources. Districts creating OER can either post links to their resources or use the authoring tools directly within the Hub. The Washington Hub is searchable across all districts and users may review materials using the platform-embedded EQuIP and Achieve OER rubrics.

OSPI Open Policy
OSPI has launched a new open policy that requires all copyrightable intellectual property created by OSPI employees, contractors, and grantees to be openly licensed. This policy will allow all stakeholders to realize the educational impact from the substantial investments the state, the federal government, and private foundations make in educational resources created by or for OSPI.

OSPI Copyright and Open Licensing Policy

More Information
In the news
Achieve the Core - Aligned guest blog: Introduction to Open Educational Resources & Open Educational Resources in Action
Education Week: Districts Put Open Educational Resources to Work
District Administration: Schools Maximize Free Content
Samsung Insights - Open Source Textbooks and Resources are Poised to Transform K-12 Education
THE Journal: How Washington is using OER to Support Common Core
State Educational Technology Directors’ Association – Washington OER Case Studies
Council for Chief State School Officers – Washington OER Stories
Council for Chief State School Officers – OER YouTube channel

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